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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 08/799,506 | 02/12/1997 | SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI | 0756-1630 | 3866 |

22204 7590 01/28/2003

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EXAMINER

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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| 2822 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| EXAMINER | |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 55 | |

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of the application.

Commissioner of Patents.

Receipt is acknowledged of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) and a submission, filed on December 23, 2002. The submission, however, is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because the newly-submitted claims are directed to a method of fabricating a semiconductor device, whereas the previous claims were directed to a multi-chambered apparatus. As 35 USC 132(b) and 37 CFR 1.114 provide continued examination of an application (and not examination of a continuing application), the Applicant cannot file an RCE to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined as a matter of right, that is, Applicant cannot switch inventions. Since the submission appears to be a bona fide attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office action, Applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a complete reply. This shortened statutory period for reply supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action. This time period may be extended pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to M. Wilczewski at telephone number (703)308-2771.



M. Wilczewski
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Tech Center 2800